

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
SENATE

A special meeting of Senate was held on April 13, 2021, directly following the regularly scheduled meeting via Webex.

114. PRESENT

The President, Dr. M. Abrahams, Dr. N. Bose, Mr. G. Blackwood, Dr. J. Keshen, Dr. D. Hardy Cox, Dr. G. Watson, Dr. S. Bugden, Ms. S. Cleyle, Dr. A. Cunsolo, Dr. I. Dostaler, Mr. R. Power (for Ms. C. Ennis-Williams), Dr. T. Fridgen, Dr. A. Gaudine, Dr. E. Furey (for Dr. K. Goodnough), Dr. T. Hennessey, Dr. K. Jacobsen, Mr. T. Nault, Dr. L. Rohr, Dr. J. Simpson, Ms. A. Ambi, Dr. S. Barkanova, Dr. D. Behm, Mr. P. Brett, Mr. C. Couturier, Dr. G. Cox, Dr. R. Croll, Dr. N. Daneshtalab, Mr. D. Duda, Mr. E. Durnford, Mr. Jerry Etienne, Dr. G. Galway, Dr. S. Ganz, Dr. G. George, Dr. M. Haghiri, Dr. E. Haven, Dr. J. Hawboldt, Dr. E. Kendall, Dr. K. Korneski, Dr. B. LeFrancois, Dr. J. Lokash, Dr. S. MacDonald, Dr. M. Marshall, Dr. S. McConnell, Dr. J. Munroe, Dr. S. O'Neill, Dr. K. Parsons, Dr. D. Peters, Dr. C. Purchase, Dr. H. Skanes, Dr. K. Snelgrove, Dr. M. Stordy, Ms. C. Walsh, Dr. J. Westcott, Dr. R. Whitaker, Mr. S. Chakraborty, Ms. A. Francis, Ms. K. McLaughlin, Ms. J. Richards.

Chair of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Standing Invitation)

Shannon Sullivan

The President welcomed all Senators to the special meeting of Senate.

115. APOLOGIES

Dr. H. Hair, Dr. C. Schiller, Dr. A. Surprenant, Dr. I. Sutherland, Dr. M. Steele

116. MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. P. Brett, seconded by Dr. M. Stordy, and carried to adopt the agenda.

117. AGENDA

Delegation of Senate Authority to the Executive Committee

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the University has had to make many decisions quickly in order to organize timely communications to the community. Many decisions of an academic nature that would normally come before Senate had to be made in emergency situations when it was not possible to convene senators.

The Senate has been asked if it should delegate more of its authority to the Executive Committee.

Currently there are only two delegated responsibilities in the Executive terms of reference:

- (i) to grant approval for the awarding of degrees, diplomas or certificates as recommended by various faculty and academic councils, and
- (ii) on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, to appoint members to Senate Committees when Senate normally does not meet.

Senate could decide no adjustments are needed to delegated authority; they could choose to remove the existing delegated authority (leaving Senate to make all academic decisions); or they could adjust the terms of reference to allow for some form of restricted additional authority to be delegated.

The document included in the agenda from the University of Victoria is a good template on which to base our own delegated authority. It makes sense to allow for delegated authority as it is hard to gather a group as large as Senate, especially for relatively small matters.

Senators felt that as much as possible regular Senate governance should be followed, but in certain circumstances, when for example it would not be possible for Senate to meet, authority should be delegated to the Executive Committee of Senate to make decisions of an emergency nature on Senate's behalf.

It was moved by Dr. M. Abrahams, seconded by Dr. E. Kendall, and carried that the Senate develop rules governing the delegation of authority to the Executive Committee.

- The Senate Committee on Elections, Committees and Bylaws will be asked to draft the appropriate changes. The draft will be presented to senators for feedback.

118. Motion to Adjourn

It was moved by Dr. B. LeFrancois that the meeting be adjourned.

119. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY